

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haman, and claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haman. In the statement of rejection concerning claims 4-5, the Examiner has relied on the reference to Katayama et al. which, though not stated in the ground of rejection under Section 103, has been relied upon by the Examiner in the statement of rejection for its teaching of outboard motor parts made of synthetic resin.

Claims 1-3 were allowed, and claims 6-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner advised that the information disclosure statement filed with the application fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2) [Patent Rule 98(a)(2)] and has been placed in the application file but has not been considered. No reason has been given as to why the information disclosure statement does not comply with Patent Rule 98(a)(2).

The application was filed claiming the benefit of priority of two corresponding Japanese patent applications, and certified copies of the Japanese priority applications

were submitted thereby perfecting the foreign priority claim. The Examiner has not acknowledged applicants' claim for foreign priority, nor has the Examiner acknowledged receipt of the priority documents. For completeness of the record, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the two priority documents.

In accordance with this response, claims 1-9 have been amended in formal respects and to better conform to U.S. claim drafting practice. In addition, claim 4 has been amended from independent to dependent form and, as amended, claim 4 depends on and is consistent with allowed independent claim 1. Thus the prior art rejection of claim 4 has been obviated, and amended dependent claim 4 is now in allowable form.

Dependent claims 5-9 each depends on allowable claim 4 and is therefore likewise allowable.

The specification has been amended in editorial respects to correct minor informalities. A new abstract has been added to more aptly reflect the invention. The original abstract referred to a fastener, in the singular, for fastening together the overlapped joining sections, and the amended abstract refers to fasteners, in the plural, as disclosed in the application.

Lastly, applicants request consideration of the information disclosure statement (IDS) filed with the application. The IDS was accompanied by Form PTO-1449 listing two Japanese patent documents and was accompanied by legible copies of the two Japanese patent documents to which were stapled the cover page of the U.S. patent that corresponds to the Japanese patent document. Thus each Japanese patent document was accompanied by an English-language abstract thereof. In addition, as stated in the IDS, each Japanese patent document is described in the "Background of the Invention" section of the present application (see pages 1-4) which provides a concise explanation of the relevance of the Japanese patent documents. As expressly provided for in Patent Rule 98(3)(i), the concise explanation of the relevance of a non-English language document may be incorporated in the specification, as done by applicants herein. Thus applicants' information disclosure statement complies fully with the requirements of Patent Rule 98 and consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

As only allowed and allowable claims remain pending in the application, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,586

50 Broadway
31st Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

September 2, 2004

Date